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associated with a first front card connected via a through connection to said first rear card.

30. (Currently Cancelled) ~~A method of transferring telecommunication transmissions comprising:~~

~~connecting a rear I/O card to a set of backplane traces associated with a PCI bus of said backplane upon receiving a failure indication associated with a front card connected via a through connection to said rear card.~~

31. (Currently Amended) A method of transferring telecommunication transmissions comprising:

allocating at least a portion of a PCI bus for communications between a rear card and a backup front or backup rear card upon receiving a failure indication associated with a front card connected via a through connection to said rear card.

32. (Currently Amended) A rear card of a device for transferring telecommunication transmissions, comprising:

an isolation relay adapted to route incoming signals from a rear card to a backup front or backup rear card through at least a portion of a PCI bus upon receiving a failure indication associated with a backup card currently connected via a through connection to said rear card.

33. (Currently Amended) A device for transferring telecommunication transmissions, comprising:

a control circuit, which upon receiving a[n] indication signal associated with a first front card currently connected via a through connection to a rear card, is adapted

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to redirect communications from said rear card to a second front card or a second rear card over at least a portion PCI bus.

34. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 33, wherein the indication is received over at least a portion of said PCI bus.

Please add the following new claims:

35. (New Claim) A method of transferring telecommunication transmissions comprising: using a PCI bus connector to select an alternative route between a first rear card and a redundant front card, directly or via a second rear card, using 'buss connection' and/or 'through connections' along said alternative route.

REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 29 to 34 are pending in the application. Claims 29 to 34 have been rejected.

Claims 29 and 31-33 have been amended.

Claim 30 has been cancelled.